

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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TAGS: AFSI, OGEN

SUBJ: ALLOWANCES FOR STUDENTS AT ARABIC LANGUAGE
SCHOOL TUNIS

REF : TUNIS 6508

1. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES BEING INCURRED BY STUDENTS AND DEPENDENTS AT ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL TUNIS, IN HOPE THAT DEPT CAN REACH IMMEDIATE DECISION ON PAYMENTS THAT WILL BE AUTHORIZED. OBJECTIVE OF ALL OF US IS SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF SCHOOL IN TUNIS AND THIS DEPENDS TO LARGE EXTEND ON ASSURANCE TO STUDENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT SUFFER EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL LOSSES AS RESULT OF CONDITIONS COMPLETELY BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS, AND FSI REPRESENTATIVES CONCUR, THAT DEFINITE DECISION BE COMMUNICATED TO TUNIS NO LATER THAN COB FRIDAY, NOV 7.

2. WITH FULL COMPLEMENT OF STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS ABOARD, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS FOR PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME. STUDENTS HAVE REQUESTED AND EMBASSY SUPPORTS GRANTING OF TEMPORARY LODGING

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ALLOWANCE SO THAT AT LEAST SOME OF STUDENTS MAY

EXERCISE OPTION OF FINDING THEIR OWN TEMPORARY
QUARTERS. REQUEST THAT TEMPORARY LODGING ALLOWANCE
(TLA) WITHIN THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED BY STANDARDIZED
REGULATIONS, I.E., \$21 PER DAY, BE AUTHORIZED. GIVEN
LACK OF TRANSPORTATION AND AVAILABLE HOTEL ROOMS
IN AREA, BELIEVE MOST STUDENTS WILL REMAIN WHERE
THEY ARE, IN WHICH CASE CHARGE AGAINST TLA WOULD REMAIN
AS NEGOTIATED WITH HOTEL, I.E., \$10 PER DAY
FOR SINGLE ROOM AND \$6.25 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM
(PARA 1, TUNIS 6325). IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT
STUDENTS AT LEAST HAVE OPTION OF MAKING OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS.

3. MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN FINANCIAL PICTURE IS
SPECIAL POST ALLOWANCE (SPA) WHICH DEPT HAS PROPOSED
TO OFFSET SPECIAL AND UNUSUAL COSTS RESULTING FROM
ASSIGNMENT TO QUARTERS WITHOUT KITCHEN FACILITIES
(STATE 256618, PARA 4). SPA SHOULD BE REVISED UPWARD
TO \$16 PER DAY. EMBASSY HAS SURVEYED VARIOUS RESTAURANTS
AND COMPARED CURRENT PRICES AND THOSE CONTAINED IN LATEST
DSP-23 AND FINDS THAT COST OF MEALS REMAINS APPROXIMATELY
THE SAME. IN A MODERATELY PRICED RESTAURANT BREAKFAST
COSTS \$3.50, LUNCH \$7.50 AND DINNER \$7.50. MAXIMUM
ESTIMATED COST FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR TAKING MEALS
AT HOME WOULD BE \$145 PER WEEK. MANY FAMILIES SPEND
MUCH LESS. COST FOR FAMILY TAKING ALL MEALS AT
RESTAURANT COMES TO \$518 OR INCREASE OF \$373. EMBASSY
RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL \$13.50 PER DAY BE AUTHORIZED
FOR FOOD. LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING COSTS AT HOTEL
ARE EXHORBITANT, I.E., FOR A SHIRT \$1, TROUSERS \$2,
UNDERCLOTHES 30 CENTS PER ITEM. AN AMOUNT OF \$2.50
PER DAY IS A VERY CONSERVATIVE COST ESTIMATE.

4. THESE ADDITIONAL MINIMUM EXTRAORDINARY COSTS,
AS DEFINED BY STANDARDIZED REGULATIONS, CLEARLY
JUSTIFY THE \$16 REQUESTED. THIS TOTAL EXCLUDES
COST OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BETWEEN
PLACE OF LODGING AND PLACE WHERE MEALS ARE
TAKEN. ALSO NOT INCLUDED IS COST OF COOPERATIVE
NURSERY SET UP BY STUDENTS, WHICH IS DIRECT RESULT
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OF LIVING IN HOTEL.
SEELYE

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